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Grants Awarded to Six Ecosystem Restoration Projects
Sacramento Valley Projects Highlighted at Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Chico – More than \$19 million in grant funding was presented today to six projects aimed at improving fish passage and ecosystem health in the Sacramento Valley. The grants were awarded in a brief presentation during a meeting of the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, a citizens group created to advise state and federal agencies on implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

The projects, which range from construction and modification of fish screens to habitat restoration, were selected as part of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's 2002 ecosystem restoration project solicitation process. The projects are expected to contribute to the Program's goal of restoring and protecting habitats, ecosystem functions and native fish species.

CALFED Director Patrick Wright said the projects would provide local ecosystem benefits while helping improve the overall health of the Bay-Delta watershed.

"The projects receiving grant awards today reflect the strengths of the CALFED Program: collaborative, locally led solutions that address water supply and ecosystem needs in a balanced way," Wright said.

Among the projects highlighted at the public meeting were several in the Chico area, including fish passage improvements at White Mallard Dam on Butte Creek, restoration and purchase of conservation easements along Battle Creek, and preparations for potential restoration of the Sacramento River's confluence with Big Chico and Mud Creeks. (See attached list of projects for details.)

State Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols signed off on state funding for the suite of projects earlier this month, capping an extensive review and selection process that began in August 2001. Funding for the projects comes from state Proposition 204, the federal Central Valley Project Improvement Act, and the Department of Interior's Iron Mountain Mine Restoration Fund.

- more -

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Water Resources
Department of Fish and Game
The Reclamation Board
Delta Protection Commission
Department of Conservation
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Health Services
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Protection
Agency
Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration

"These awards continue the momentum CALFED has helped create over the past few years to restore vital ecosystems and improve water management in California, Nichols said. "By funding projects such as these, CALFED agencies are building a legacy of cooperation and progress that will be the key to meeting California's ecosystem and water supply needs."

The six projects are among 12 selected as directed actions in CALFED's most recent grant application cycle. The projects, which underwent a rigorous technical and scientific public solicitation process, will be part of the Ecosystem Restoration Program's Draft Stage 1 Plan that emphasizes restoration priorities through the first seven years of implementing the CALFED plan.

To date, over \$398 million in state, federal and stakeholder funds and cost-sharing agreements have been awarded for 379 ecosystem restoration projects.

Further information about the most recent project awards is available at <http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/Programs/EcosystemRestoration/Ecosystem2002DirectedAction.shtml>. Additional information about the CALFED Program and ecosystem restoration projects can be found at <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

For more information about the Ecosystem Restoration Program grant process, contact Dan Ray at (916) 653-0198 or dray@water.ca.gov.

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The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies working with local communities to improve the quality and reliability of California's water supplies and revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem. The CALFED strategic plan is the largest, most comprehensive water management effort in the nation.

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 Environmental Protection
 Agency
 Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Forest Service
 Department of Commerce
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Western Area Power Administration

**CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Ecosystem Restoration Program
Funding For Directed Actions, March 2003**

White Mallard Dam and Associated Diversions – Phase III, Proposal Number 59DA

By Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated

Recommended Funding: \$753,415

The project is designed to improve fish passage for anadromous fish in Butte Creek while maintaining the viability of agriculture and managed wetlands in the Butte Creek floodplain. The project involves upgrading White Mallard Dam by constructing a fish ladder and a new water control structures. The funding is provided by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act's Anadromous Fish Restoration Program.

M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen Facility - Short-Term/Long-Term Protection Project, Proposal Number: 89DA

By M&T Chico Ranch

Recommended funding: \$636,650

The project is designed to develop a solution to sediment deposition problems at the M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen Facility and the City of Chico's Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall while maintaining the river's meander.

Reclamation District No. 108 Consolidated Pumping Facility and Fish Screen, Proposal Number: 116DA

By Reclamation District 108

Recommended funding: \$630,000

The project is aimed at completing the design, environmental documentation and permitting to consolidate and screen three of the district's seven Sacramento River diversions. The project is expected to reduce the incidental take of protected fish.

Battle Creek Protection and Stewardship, Proposal Number: 166DA

By The Nature Conservancy

Recommended funding: \$2,206,625

The project involves the purchase of conservation easements to help conserve three ranches in the watershed of Battle Creek, an important salmon and steelhead stream, and, fencing and restoration of creeksides and other sensitive habitats. The project is aimed at protecting water quality for fish and maintaining ecosystem health. Funding is being provided by the Department of Interior's Iron Mountain Mine Restoration Fund.

Restoration of the Confluence Area of the Sacramento River, Big Chico and Mud Creeks, Proposal Number: 170DA

By The Nature Conservancy

Recommended funding: \$2,603,377

The project includes acquisition of 271 acres of flood-damaged orchard and planning for its restoration – as well as an adjacent orchard already owned by TNC - to channel and floodplain habitat.

American Basin Fish Screen and Habitat Improvement Project, Proposal Number: 96DA

By Natomas Mutual Water Company

Recommended funding: \$12,600,000

The project involves the removal of a diversion dam, consolidation of diversions and the construction of state-of-the-art fish screens at Natomas Mutual Water Company's diversions on

the Sacramento River. The objective is to remove fish migration barriers, prevent entrainment of salmon and other species and improve habitat.

Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project, Proposal # 30 DA

By the California State Coastal Conservancy

Recommended funding: \$25,050,000

The project is the purchase of 1,166-acres adjacent to Dutch Slough in Contra Costa County, and planning for its restoration to tidal marsh.

Napa-Sonoma Marsh Restoration Project, Proposal Number: 31DA

By the California Coastal Conservancy

Recommended funding: \$4,511,400

The project will manage salinity and begin restoration of 3000 acres of former Napa River salt ponds owned by the Department of Fish and Game.

Two-Dimensional Detailed Hydraulic Model for Determining Flood Conveyance Impacts of Ecosystem Restoration Projects in the Yolo Bypass, Proposal Number: 32DA

By the California State Reclamation Board

Recommended funding: \$500,257

The project will create a hydraulic model that can be used to evaluate the impact of habitat restoration projects and other alterations of the Yolo Bypass.

Merced River Corridor Restoration Plan Phase IV: Dredger Tailings Reach, Proposal Number: 158DA

By Stillwater Sciences

Recommended funding: \$2,192,515

The project includes the planning of a channel and floodplain restoration project for the Merced River's Dredger Tailings Reach.

Tuolumne River Mining Reach Restoration Project: Warner-Deardorff Segment No. 3 – Construction, Proposal Number: 181DA

By the Turlock Irrigation District

Recommended funding: \$10,839,000

The overall Mining Reach Project includes restoration on a 6.1-mile reach of the Tuolumne River below La Grange Dam. The Warner-Deardorff Segment represents the third element being reconstructed in the Mining Reach, restoring 73 acres of riparian floodplain habitat and 1.3 miles of in-channel riverine habitat for fall run Chinook salmon, including completion of the easement acquisition, permitting for construction, construction, riparian revegetation, and post project monitoring.

Hamilton City Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction, Proposal Number: 261DA

By the California State Reclamation Board

Recommended funding: \$495,000

The project funds a feasibility study for ecosystem restoration and flood damage reduction, including setting back existing levees in the Sacramento Valley's Hamilton City area. It will complete the Hamilton City feasibility study initiated by the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Comprehensive Study.

NOTE: Funding provided by state Proposition 204 unless stated otherwise.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM'S DIRECTED ACTIONS-March 2003

